



Material from the East Tennessee Veterans Memorial Association: [East Tennessee Veterans Memorial Association — Pierce, J. Wayne](#)

J.W. Wayne Pierce was born January 21, 1922, in Champaign, Illinois. He was a resident of Maryville, TN, when he was drafted to serve as a Seaman Second Class on the USS Pickerel in the Pacific Theater of World War II. In May of 1943, S2C Pierce and his fellow submariners went missing in the Pacific while on a mission to survey the open waters around Honshu, Japan. The sub was last seen refueling on the 22nd of March, 1943, on Midway Island in the Pacific. The fate of the submarine USS Pickerel and its 84 crew members remains unknown to this day. All missing crew members were officially declared dead on the 10th of August, 1945. Their names are forever memorialized on the Honolulu Memorial, in Honolulu, Hawaii.

From the Submarine Force Museum (By Education Specialist on Thursday, 3 April 2014 at 8:00 am Posted in Submarine History): [The Loss of USS PICKEREL \(SS-177\) - Submarine Force Library & Museum Association](#)

The loss of USS PICKEREL (SS-177) during her seventh war patrol is one of the many mysteries of World War II. She left Pearl Harbor in 18 March 1943, topped off with fuel at Midway on the 22nd, departed for the waters around Honshu, Japan, and was never heard from again.

Japanese records credit PICKEREL with the sinking of Submarine Chaser Number 13 on 3 or 4 April. Shortly after the attack, a Japanese aircraft spotted an American sub, dropped 23 bombs, and called in the surface cavalry. Two ships arrived and pounded the area of the sighting with 26 depth charges. Shortly thereafter they spotted oil floating on the water and assumed that they had hit their target. But on 7 April a cargo ship was

sunk in PICKEREL's area; there were no other American subs in the vicinity and she was awarded the kill during post-war reckoning.

It is possible that the oil tanks aboard PICKEREL, a relatively old boat commissioned in 1937, leaked, expelling the oil the Japanese saw on the surface after the attack in the first days of April but not indicating the boat's demise. It is also possible that the dates listed in the records were wrong, or that PICKEREL was a victim of one of the several other anti-submarine attacks the Japanese launched in her area during the time period. Still others have argued that the boat may have been sunk by one of the many mines the Japanese had placed in the waters around Honshu.

Ultimately the cause of PICKEREL's demise doesn't matter nearly as much as the fact that her loss left 74 families without a loved one and with many questions that will probably never be answered.



REPORT OF CHANGES

of U. S. S. PICKEREL (SS 177)

for the month ending _____ day of _____, 19____, date of sailing
from _____ to _____

	1 NAMES (Alphabetically arranged without regard to ratings, with surname to the left and the first name written in full)	2 SERVICE NUMBER (The service number must under no condition be omitted)	3 Rating at Date of Last Report	4 Date of Enlistment			5 Place of Enlistment
16	MC CORMACK, Patrick Henry	606 28 34	FM3c				
17	MC MAHON, John	212 23 50	CTM				
18	MEISCHKE, Frederick Louis	375 64 36	CEM				
19	MITCHELL, Henry Murel	617 92 80	S2c				
20	MORRISON, Grover Cleveland, Jr.	640 13 13	FM3c				
21	NOVIOCK, Thomas William	321 28 84	EM1c				
22	OLAGUERA, Francisco,	497 95 86	OSTd2c				
23	OSBORN, Berl Glyde	368 70 91	SC3c				
24	PEAFER, William Albert	244 02 04	S1c				
25	PIERCE, "J" "W" Wayne	641 23 58	S2c				
26	POLK, Donald	644 54 99	S1c				
27	PORE, John Williams	355 97 36	EM1c				
28	POWELL, Charles Allane	274 13 21	CRM				
29	RASMUSSEN, Svend John	256 27 80	MOGMLc				
30	RUSSELL, Elmer Howard	641 23 56	S2c				

	6 Branch of Service	7 Received, transferred, deserted, discharged, change of rating, death, or any other change of status	8 Date of Occurrence in column 7	9 Vessel or station from which received, to what vessel or station transferred, where discharged and character of discharge; where deserted, and amount due or overpaid. Where died, cause of death and where and when buried. If rated and authority for same. If deserted, give cause; if on detached duty, give place of duty. If passenger, give purpose of travel and final disposition.
16	USNR	Missing in	Action 5/6/43;	Changed to Presumed Dead 8/10/45.
17	USN		"	"
18	USN		"	"
19	USNR		"	"
20	USNR		"	"
21	USN		"	"
22	USN		"	"
23	USN		"	"
24	USN		"	"
25	USNR		"	"
26	USNR		"	"
27	USN		"	"
28	USN		"	"
29	USN		"	"
30	USNR		"	"

REGISTRATION CARD—(Men born on or after January 1, 1922 and on or before June 30, 1924)

SERIAL NUMBER 000089 1. NAME (Print) J. W. Wayne Pierce ORDER NUMBER 11239

2. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Print) Lamar Street Maryville, Blount, Tenn.
(City and street) (Town, town or village, or city) (County) (State)

3. MAILING ADDRESS Same
(Checkline address if other than place indicated on line 2. If none, insert word "None")

4. TELEPHONE 5. AGE IN YEARS 20 DATE OF BIRTH Jan. 21 1922 6. PLACE OF BIRTH Champaign Co. Illinois
(Town, town or village, or city) (County) (State)

7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS Lawrence Pierce, Lamar St. Maryville, Tenn.
(Checkline) (City and street) (Town, town or village, or city) (County) (State)

8. EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS Unemployed

9. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS

I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.

D. S. S. Form 1 (Revised 9-1-42) (over) 410-21030-3 Wayne Pierce

REGISTRAR'S REPORT

DESCRIPTION OF REGISTRANT

RACE	HEIGHT (Approx.)	WEIGHT (Approx.)	COMPLEXION
White	✓ 5' 3 1/2"	145	Yellow
	YES	HAIR	Light
Blue	✓	Black	Dark
Gray		Red	Dark
Brown		Brown	Dark
Black		Black	Light brown
Black		Gray	Dark brown
Black		Black	Black

Other obvious physical characteristics that will aid in identification:
Scar on upper lip.

I certify that my answers are true, that the person registered has read or has had read to him the contents of this report, and that he has signed it as true and correct.

Registrar for Local Board: Carrie Lou Rossard
2 Blount, Tenn.
Date of registration: June 30, 1942

Local Board No. 1 48
Blount County 003

001

STAMP OF LOCAL BOARD

410-21030-3

Form 1330, 1 NOV 67. Application for Headstone or Marker. Includes fields for Name of Deceased (Pierce, J.W. Wayne), Service No./SSAN (441 23 58), Enlistment Date (Sept. 21, 1942), State (Tennessee), Branch of Service (U.S.S. Pickerel - Submarine), Date of Death (Jan. 22, 1922), and Address of Applicant (816 Lamar Street, Maryville, Tennessee 37801). Includes handwritten notes like 'Killed in action' and 'Submarine Combat'.

Table with 2 columns: NAME and ADDRESS. Lists names and addresses of individuals, likely related to the military service or the deceased. Includes names like PARISH, William Webb, LAMONT, and others.

Amard Parsons, 316 E. Washington St., Fayetteville.
PARSONS, Robert L., Sgt., USMC. Parents, Mr. and Mrs. Grover C. Parsons, Rt. 1, Crossville.
PARTEN, Graham Stone, Seaman 1c, USNR. Daughter, Sarah Stone Parten, c/o Annie Foshee, 2216 Bailey Ave., Chattanooga.
PATTERSON, Charles Henry, Radioman 3c, USN. Father, Mr. George Matt Patterson, Rt. 2, Speedwell.
PATTERSON, K. C., Mess Attendant 1c, USN. Mother, Mrs. Margrete Moses, 26 Maude St., Chattanooga.
PATTON, Archie C., Pfc., USMCR. Mother, Mrs. Kate C. Patton, 1665 Madison Ave., Memphis.
PAYNE, Morgan Andy, Gunner's Mate 1c, USN. Parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Payne, 907 N. Church St., Murfreesboro.
PAYSINGER, Elby Daulton, Chief Torpedoman's Mate, USNR. Parents, Mr. and Mrs. Clay Paysinger, Rt. 1, Ardmore.
PEEBLES, Samuel Warmuth, Jr., Lieutenant, USNR. Parents, Mr.

Parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph L. Phillips, 1412 Taylor St., Memphis.
PHILPOT, Robert P., Pfc., USMCR. Parents, Mr. and Mrs. William H. Philpot, 1336 Sardis St., Memphis.
PIERCE, Fred A., Pfc., USMC. Mother, Mrs. Lola Mae Pierce, Altamont. (Wife, Alabama City, Ala.)
PIERCE, J. W. Wayne, Seaman 2c, USNR. Parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Pierce, Maryville.
PIERCE, Marvin Leslie, Seaman 2c, USN. Parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Franklin Pierce, Rt. 3, Dyersburg.
PIGG, Lewis Henry, Ship's Cook 2c, USNR. Parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Lewis Pigg, Rt. 1, Crestview.
PINDER, Billie Clement, Gunner's Mate 2c, USNR. Daughter, Betty Bond Pinder, 80-A Westwood Garden, Jackson.
PITT, Willis Martin, Watertender 1c, USN. Parents, Mr. and Mrs. Quincy Pitt, 1210 Cherry Ave., Nashville.
PIEMONS, Joe Wheeler, Machinist's

PURGASON, Billy Frank, Seaman 1c, USNR. Parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Thomas Purgason, Rt. 3, Mosheim.

R

RAGSDALE, William R., Cpl., USMCR. Wife, Mrs. William R. Ragsdale, 703 Craighead Ave., Nashville.
RAY, Charles C., Pfc., USMCR. Parents, Mr. and Mrs. Floyd E. Ray, 408 Rosebank Ave., Nashville.
RAY, Eldon Casper, Storekeeper 3c, USN. Parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Ray, Rt. 1, Goodlettsville.
RAY, Raymond Frank, Pfc., USMCR. Parents, Mr. and Mrs. Oliver M. Ray, Rt. 1, Riceville.
RAY, Sanford Farris, Carpenter's Mate 3c, USN. Mother, Mrs. Duffy Ray, Rt. 1, Mason.
RAY, Willard F., Jr., Cpl., USMC. Parents, Mr. and Mrs. Willard F. Ray, Fountain Head.
RAY, Wilson E., Sr., Pfc., USMCR. Wife, Mrs. Wilson E. Ray, Sr., 717 N. 7th St., Memphis.
REAVLEY, James Howard, Seaman 1c, USNR. Parents, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Reavley, Flat Top.
REDDEN, Norris Hungerford, Elec-

HONOLULU MEMORIAL

(aka Courts of the Missing)

World War II

PIENIADZ FRANCIS J
RADIO TECHNICIAN 2C • USNR • ILLINOIS

PIELOW ROBERT K
SEAMAN 2C • USNR • KANSAS

PIERANTOZZI ANTHONY
CHIEF PHARMACIST'S MATE • USN • PA

PIERCE CLIFFORD B
SEAMAN 2C • USN • INDIANA

PIERCE EARL F
AVN CHIEF ORDNANCEMAN • USN • CAL

PIERCE J W WAYNE
SEAMAN 2C • USNR • TENNESSEE

PIERCE JOHN W
FIRE CONTROLMAN 3C • USNR • NEW YORK

PIERCE MARVIN LESLIE
SEAMAN 2C • USN • TENNESSEE

PIERCE THOMAS D
SEAMAN 1C • USN • NORTH CAROLINA

PIERCE WALTER E
ENSIGN • USNR • IOWA

PIERCEFIELD ZIEGLER F
PAINTER 3C • USNR • INDIANA

PIERCY WILBURNE E
LIEUTENANT(JG) • USNR • TEXAS

PIERINGER CHARLES F JR
TORPEDOMAN'S MATE 2C • USN • N J

PIERPAOLI ROBERT J JR
AVN RADIOMAN 2C • USNR • ARIZONA

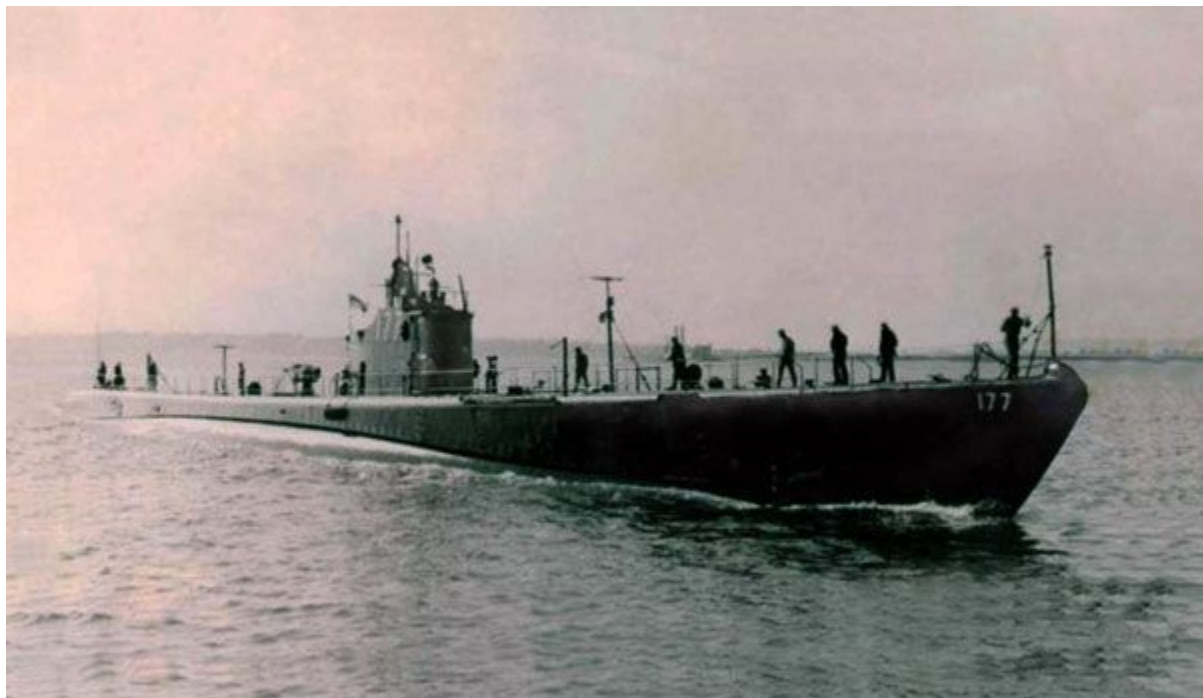
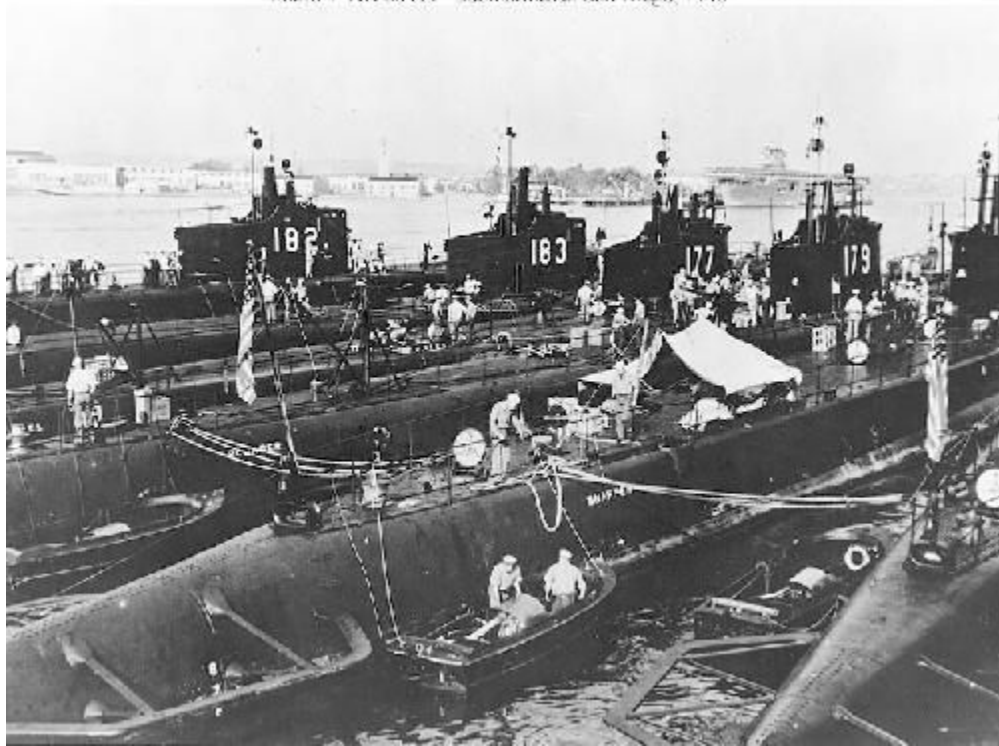


Photo # NH 68479 Submarines at San Diego, 1940





MARYVILLE SEAMAN MISSING IN ACTION

Special To The News-Sentinel

MARYVILLE, June 5—Seaman Wayne Pierce, 22, is missing in action, the parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Pierce, of Lamar Street, have been notified by the Navy Department. Seaman Pierce, a former Maryville High School student, was in submarine service.